

**MINUTES  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
AIRPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Meeting of January 8, 2013  
Montgomery Field Terminal Building**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** J. H. Aldrich (Montgomery Field Aviation Lessee), Jackie Ander (Serra Mesa Community) *late arrival*, Tom Dray (Montgomery Field Tower), Buzz Gibbs (Kearny Mesa Community), Lisa Golden (Otay Mesa Community), Scott Hasson (Tierrasanta Community), Bob Hitchcock (Brown Field Aviation User Group), Chairman Buzz Fink (Special Expertise), Rich Martindell (Special Expertise), Vice-Chair Chuck McGill (Montgomery Field Aviation User Group), David Ryan (Brown Field Aviation Lessee)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Nici Boon, Walt Harrison, Jerry Navarra, Rick Richard, Ray Richmond, Tom Ricotta, Larry Rothrock

**STAFF PRESENT:** Debra Bevier, Ernie Gesell, Brandi Mulvey, Wayne Reiter, Andy Schwartz, Mike Tussey

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Fink called the meeting to order at 3:03 P.M. A quorum was present.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the October 9, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously, as written, with Mr. Hasson abstaining, due to his absence at that meeting.

The minutes of the November 13, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously, as written, with Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Hasson and Mr. Martindell abstaining, due to their absence at that meeting.

**3. PUBLIC INPUT**

Larry Rothrock announced the recent passing of EAA member Paul Hanson.

**4. WELCOME**

Chairman Fink welcomed back Scott Hasson to the Committee. Last year, Mr. Hasson was forced to resign his membership on the Committee, due to his candidacy announcement for San Diego Community College District.

Chairman Fink welcomed new Committee member David Ryan. An administrative error officially has Mr. Ryan representing Brown Field Aviation Lessees, rather than one of the Special Expertise seats. Despite this error, which will be corrected, Mr. Ryan will maintain his seat as a full member with voting privileges.

## **5. ELECTIONS**

Section 203 of the By-Laws states: *“At its first meeting of each calendar year, the Committee shall select a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson by majority vote.”*

### **Chairperson**

Mr. Gibbs nominated Buzz Fink, seconded by Mr. Hasson. There were no further nominations. Mr. Fink was unanimously voted Chairperson for 2013.

### **Vice-Chairperson**

Mr. Aldrich nominated Mr. McGill, seconded by Mr. Gibbs. There were no further nominations. Mr. McGill was unanimously voted Vice-Chairperson for 2013.

## **6. RECOGNITION**

Mr. Hasson requested suggestions to recognize former Committee member, and personal friend, Kevin O'Donnell. Mr. O'Donnell was diagnosed with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease, which forced him to resign from the Committee early in 2012. Last year, the Committee presented Mr. O'Donnell with an Airports logo sign with messages from Committee members. Mr. Hasson suggested something additional should be done, such as a plaque. Mr. Gibbs explained Mr. O'Donnell's current condition and family situation.

Airport Noise Abatement Officer Wayne Reiter suggested changing the name of Taxiway India to Taxiway Kilo, and dedicating the taxiway to Kevin, since it leads to Crownair.

Airports Deputy Director Mike Tussey added the change would be embraced by the FAA, since Kilo would conform with current taxiway designation standards, while the designation India does not. The change and dedication would be shown on the Airport Layout Plan (ALP), which needs to be revised as part of the Rwy 5/23 and Twy Golf project.

There are currently three unlit metal signs that would require a temporary modification until new, lighted signs are added as part of the Rwy 5/23 and Twy Golf project. This modification can be done without Council approval or environmental analysis. A fourth taxiway sign could be created and presented to Mr. O'Donnell at a dedication ceremony.

Mr. Hasson made a motion to change the name of Taxiway India to Taxiway Kilo, and dedicate the taxiway to Kevin O'Donnell. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aldrich, and passed unanimously.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Vision MYF Subcommittee**

Chairman Fink indicated that some AAC members had an interest in creating a subcommittee to provide recommendations to the City regarding a long-term vision, or business plan, for Montgomery Field. Vice-Chair McGill will lead the subcommittee, which will consist of: Chairman Fink, Vice-Chair McGill, Dr. Aldrich, Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Hasson, Mr. Ryan and Ms. Boon. A discussion ensued. Mr. Hasson suggested the need for a new or refurbished terminal building; Jerry Navarra suggested bringing aerospace manufacturing businesses to San Diego.

### AAC Appointment Process

Chairman Fink invited the Committee to discuss ways to improve the selection procedures for new Committee members. Chairman Fink recommended making a suggestion to the Mayor and Council to adopt a policy where the Mayor will nominate a candidate, notify Council, and if there are no objections after a reasonable time period, appoint the candidate to the Committee. The current process is lengthy, burdensome and intrusive for a voluntary advisory committee. Mr. Tussey recommended the Committee make a motion as to what its desires are, and then he could research, and eventually report what would be required to implement those desires. The current procedure is largely dictated by City Ordinance.

Mr. Hitchcock made a motion to request the Airports Division research what would be required to streamline the Airports Advisory Committee appointment process. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion. After a discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

### **8. STAFF & DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### MYF General Update – MYF Airport Manager Ernie Gesell

- The parking lot west of the terminal was recently repaved. As a result, more cars are parking there. Staff requested Northrop Grumman employees park there, versus the east lot, in order to free up parking spaces for Casa Machado guests.
- On December 27, a Baron departed Runway 28R, but experienced an engine failure after passing 6,000 feet. The pilot declared an emergency and returned to the airport, safely landing on Runway 28R. Ops Assist Michael McKelvey responded and assisted.
- In late December, local media reported an aircraft crash in Sycamore Canyon, resulting three fatalities. The aircraft had departed Montgomery Field.
- Trees and buildings were recently surveyed as part of the upcoming Rwy 5/23 project, to determine if there were any penetrations into the approach surfaces. Currently, there are no penetrations in any of the surfaces. Nonetheless, Caltrans has been contacted to trim the trees along Kearny Villa Road near Spiders. A request will also be made to the 94<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron to have their trees trimmed as well.
- Recently, Vice-Chair McGill was taxiing his aircraft on Taxiway Hotel when he had to stop suddenly to avoid being overflown by a helicopter approaching Midport from the north. The helicopter had been doing training on Rwy 23. Current airport policy states helicopters landing at Midport must approach the FATO parallel to Rwy 28L.

Vice-Chair McGill added he has personally experienced numerous close encounters – overflights at low altitude – with helicopters while operating in the vicinity of Twys Golf/Hotel and the fuel island. He feels the helicopter routes, as stated in the airport policy, should be followed at all times.

MYF Tower Manager Tom Dray explained the tower will approve a helicopter to hover-taxi to Midport directly from Rwy 23 on the basis it is a taxi operation. Regardless of the technicalities, he will speak with his tower staff to emphasize the concern of fixed-wing pilots, and revisit the general helicopter operating practices around Midport.

Mr. Gesell added that a hover taxi can be as high as 100 feet, and would prefer, for operations at Midport, to see helicopter approaches and departures parallel Rwy 28L, as stated in the airport policy.

Tom Ricotta asked how transient helicopter pilots might become aware of the procedures for operating at Midport. He stated that as a passenger he approached the FATO, as instructed, by overflying the fire helicopter, which upset the Fire/Rescue staff. Mr. Gesell replied he would need to discuss that matter with the tower.

#### MYF Tower Update – MYF Tower Manager Tom Dray

- The control tower will be undergoing a major refurbishment. Starting in May and continuing until January 2014, tower operations will be relocated to a temporary cab. The sightlines in the temporary cab will be slightly reduced, and there will be one fewer controller position, which could result in fewer locally-filed flight plans. Those flight plans may need to be filed with FSS instead. There will also be fewer visitors allowed during the project.

Mr. Martindell asked how pilots will know when to file flight plans with FSS, versus asking the tower to do it. Mr. Dray replied he will send out a mass email and attend meetings. Mr. Martindell suggested putting notices in the FBO's.

- The Mission Bay VORTAC will be off the air starting January 9 and the outage will last for two and a half weeks. This will have a substantial impact on IFR operations, excluding those equipped for RNAV. The MYF ILS missed approach will be modified by NOTAM to intercept a radial off OCN, versus MZB. IFR clearances will likely be a radar vector to the next fix or airway after MZB. Instrument departures, for those not RNAV equipped, will be not authorized when the tower is closed.

Other airports will also be affected, including, but not limited to: SDM and SEE will also have IFR departures not authorized when the tower is closed, unless RNAV equipped; VOR-A to SDM and LOC-D to SEE will be not authorized, since there is no alternate missed approach procedure; the VOR to OCN will require RNAV or DME. Check NOTAM's for a complete list of affected procedures.

- Two incidents have occurred recently where pilots executed an early turn to 270° midfield while departing Rwy 28R. In both cases, there was a departure from Rwy 28L at the same time. One situation was observed and corrected by the tower. Vice-Chair pointed out that the AIM specifies IFR departure turns are to be made at 400 feet and past the departure end of the departure runway.

#### Noise/Special Projects – Airport Noise Abatement Officer Wayne Reiter

The quarterly noise report for October – December 2012 is out, with the 2012 annual totals on the back side of the report. Mr. Ricotta asked about how households are listed. Mr. Reiter explained household numbers may be shown more than once from month-to-month, but shown once in the annual totals. Mr. Aldrich asked about the complaints from La Jolla. Mr. Reiter replied the complaints from La Jolla were mainly due to banner tow aircraft, helicopters and increased frequency of all aircraft. It is difficult to identify MYF aircraft flying over La Jolla, but the complaints are counted nonetheless.

MYF/SDM Property – Supervising Property Agent Brandi Mulvey

Ms. Mulvey put together a list of airport leasing information, as requested by the AAC, in order to assist the subcommittee in making recommendations regarding the long-term vision of MYF.

SDM Development Update – DPC Project Manager Nici Boon

The comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) closed on December 17, 2012 with 26 comments received. DPC is analyzing the comments and preparing the responses, which should take place in February, which could (optimistically) result in a Council appearance in April.

Mr. Hasson asked where the project stands overall. Ms. Boon replied the next step is to respond to the DEIR comments, to be included in the Final EIR. The Final EIR, along with other to-be negotiated agreements, will go to the Planning Commission, Land Use and Housing and Council, where DPC will seek approval of the Leasehold Development Agreement, Lease Agreement and certification the Final EIR. The NEPA process is ongoing with the FAA, as is the Section 7 for the federally endangered species.

The permitting process will start with the City for Phase I of the project, and with California Fish and Game. Assuming the Section 7 and Environmental Assessment (EA) are successful, DPC will apply for construction permits at the end of this year/first quarter of next year. That being said, there will be requirements for mitigation to be in place for certain impacts prior to the start of construction.

SDM General Update – SDM Senior Airport Operations Assistant Andy Schwartz

Mr. Tussey congratulated Mr. Schwartz on his recent promotion.

- Ramona Paving recently completed paving and marking the parking lots at the terminal.
- In December, the rotating beacon stopped working. It was temporarily fixed with a spare motor. A new motor is on order.
- The Commemorative Air Force has tentative plans to bring the only flying B-29 “Fifi” to Brown Field in March, possibly accompanied with a C-45, P-51 and Stearman. Ms. Ander asked if it will be open to the public. Mr. Schwartz replied yes, for a fee.

Mr. Ricotta announced there will be a PBY stopping at Brown Field next week, possibly the 15<sup>th</sup>, to clear Customs. The aircraft is being brought back from South Africa and will reside at Gillespie Field

*Chairman Fink turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair McGill, and then departed.*

Capital Improvement/Consultant Project Update – Airports Deputy Director Mike Tussey

- MYF Rwy 10L/28R Construction: \$600k in change orders, mainly due to the removal of unsuitable material. Yet to be completed are two items: Asphalt grinding around the in-pavement MALS, and the final painting of runway markings.
- MYF Rwy 5/23, Twy G Rehab: \$2.7 million grant received, \$2 million expected in July.
- MYF Twy C and Runup: \$1 million grant expected in July.
- MYF Access Control: \$475k grant received. Card readers will incorporate keypads, rendering the gates able to be opened with a card or a code (as recommended by a previous subcommittee).
- SDM Rwy 8L/26R Design: Changes to boilerplate will not require another trip to Council to initiate the contract. Start likely NLT February. HNTB is the consultant.

- SDM Rwy 8L/26R Construction: Estimated to be \$11 million, a grant for half of which anticipated to be received in July. Project will be done in two phases.

Ms. Ander suggested inviting representatives from Council District 6 (Zapf) and Council District 7 (Sherman) to attend the meetings.

## **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Hasson announced the presence of Clairemont Town Council member Rick Richard. He is a prospective candidate to fill the vacant Clairemont representative seat on the Committee.

*The next meeting of the AAC will be at Montgomery Field on February 12, 2013.*

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wayne J. Reiter